

Weather Forecast

Warmer today, with gentle winds. Temperatures yesterday—Highest, 45, at 3:30 p.m.; lowest, 21, at 5 a.m.
From the United States Weather Bureau report. Full details on Page A-2.

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Singapore Defenders Check Japs Despite Intensive Air Attacks; Flying Fortresses in Indies Raid

Counterattacks Even Regain Some Ground

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Feb. 14.—Singapore's defenders fought back in a blazing battle tonight, using tanks for the first time and subjecting the constricting Japanese lines to violent shelling from big shore guns, field batteries and warships.

After six days of terrific battle, with the advantages of overwhelming numbers and of continuous high, low and dive bombing to shatter a gallant foe, the Japanese still were finding Singapore an exceedingly tough nut to crack. In fact, the defenders even regained some ground in counterattacks.

The British Imperials still held at least two of the water reservoirs from which to quench the thirst of thousands of civilians at their back, the Singapore radio was heard to say in Batavia tonight.

"Our troops counterattacked at one point at least and established a new line," the broadcast announced.

Terrific Barrages Laid Down.
Japanese broadcasts heard here admitted they had encountered terrific barrages laid down from big coastal guns on Changi Point at the northeastern tip of the island and from other forts in that area, from Blakang Mati Islands south of Singapore City, from warships around the city and from mass artillery in the reservoir section north-west of the city.

The Changi and Blakang Mati Island forts were erected to repel seaborne invasion, but the Japanese broadcasts did not make clear whether it was the biggest 14 and 18 inch artillery which were hammering their lines or the lesser batteries.

The Singapore broadcast heard in Batavia said British tanks went into action for the first time during the battle, and also mentioned 40 shells an hour fired by some heavy British field artillery supported by the shore defenses.

A number of wounded from Singapore, who arrived at Batavia, declared the defenders were fighting in a "blazing hell" with flames roaring around them, smoke billowing over them and Japanese relays of bombers dropping a hail of explosives in their midst.

No Thought of Evacuation.
But there was no thought of a military evacuation, these wounded declared.

"The imperial troops will fight to the last man and the last round," they said.

The civilian population has been fully mobilized to fight fires, participate in passive defense and relieve distress, the refugee wounded said.

The people of Singapore sleep anywhere, civilians and soldiers lying down side by side in streets, ditches, parks and the countryside.

All normal business was at a standstill, but one newspaper kept going.

(The German radio said early Sunday that latest Japanese dispatches from Singapore told of additional landings on the west coast of the island after heavy artillery preparations.)

The invaders were said to have made a further advance toward Panjang, about 6 miles northwest of Singapore City.)

Reach Paya Lebar Area.
Today's communique said that despite the stubborn dispute of every inch of ground, the Japanese had driven from the race course, water reservoir and rail line section northwest of the city into the Paya Lebar area, a village about 3 miles from the outskirts.

Apparently this meant that a wedge had been shoved into the middle of the line, stretching in a general north and south direction across the island from Tanjong, about 2 miles west of Singapore City, to the naval base on Johore Strait.

Whether the counterattack, subsequently announced by the broadcast heard in Batavia, was against this salient was not clear.

Japanese broadcasts declared they had occupied the Seletar naval base at noon today, and said their bombing attacks on 30 naval and merchant ships in Singapore harbor had set 20,000-ton transports blazing and damaged a number of others with direct hits.

Ships Aid Reported.
These broadcasts asserted Japanese naval forces opened the way to the huge naval base, but it was not clear how any Japanese warships could have managed to get there inasmuch as big batteries were still active at the mouth of Johore Strait.

The Singapore broadcast heard in Batavia said some of these big guns smashed the causeway which connects the island with the mainland Friday night and again made it impassable. This tended to confirm a Japanese claim that they had temporarily bridged the original break caused by British dynamiting two weeks ago.

Many Suicide Attacks Made In Channel Fight, British Say

One Destroyer Dashed Across Mine Fields, Ploughed Close to Enemy Before Firing

(Text of Admiralty Statement on Page A-19)

By the Associated Press.
LONDON, Feb. 14.—The men and officers of the British Navy made not one but many suicide attacks Thursday in the wild and stormy battle of the English Channel in gallant effort to bring down the speeding German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and their escorts, the Admiralty said tonight in a long explanation to a bewildered public.

With picturesque words, the Admiralty reported, however, that such was the mist, the splash from shell and the billows of smoke from careening warships that not a man in the British Navy can be sure of what damage was done.

The Admiralty's statement was issued as a clamoring British public asked why, and how, the British navy permitted the German fleet to steam defiantly to freedom past England's very front door.

The statement disclosed these points:

1. One destroyer, dashing with her fellows straight across treacherous mine fields because she had no time to detour, ploughed up to within 2,500 yards—less than a mile and a half—of one of the battleships before throwing over her helm and loosing her torpedoes in the very muzzles of the 11-inch guns and other rifles of her heavily-armed foes.

Although hit by one bomb from the swarm of dive-bombers overhead, she fired her torpedoes "just as it had been a peace-time exercise," the Admiralty said. Then hit by another bomb and blazing forward, she was in such shape, the statement added, that "it would have been an easy matter for the enemy to have finished her off."

2. Six Swordfish torpedo-carrying aircraft, flying low and fast, struck the German battleships.

3. A British battleship, the Hood, was sunk by a German battleship.

4. A British battleship, the Prince of Wales, was damaged by a German battleship.

5. A British battleship, the Ramsees, was damaged by a German battleship.

6. A British battleship, the Black Prince, was damaged by a German battleship.

7. A British battleship, the Hood, was sunk by a German battleship.

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19. A British battleship, the Hood, was sunk by a German battleship.

Hit Is Believed Scored on Ship In Macassar

By the Associated Press.
The biggest concentration of huge, four-engined United States Army bombers yet reported in the Pacific campaign attacked Japanese shipping yesterday in the Macassar area, a theater in which the United Nations have struck some of their hardest blows at the enemy.

A War Department communique late yesterday said that 12 bombers of the flying fortress type attacked enemy shipping and that "while results were not completely ascertained" it was believed that at least one big ship was hit. Subsequently a large fire was observed in the area of attack, the department said.

The presence of 12 of the big planes in one group led to belief in some quarters here that this indicated reinforcements of heavy aircraft were reaching the Indies area. The biggest previously reported fight was on January 28, when eight four-engined Army planes engaged in one operation.

All Return Safely.

The part of the communique concerning the raid read: "Twelve heavy American Army bombers of the flying fortress type attacked enemy shipping in the Macassar area. The results were not completely ascertained, but it is believed that at least one large enemy ship was hit and, subsequently, a large fire was observed in the area of the attack. All of our planes returned safely."

Japanese artillery on the Cavite shore again has bombarded American harbor defenses in Manila Bay, but ineffectually, a morning communique on the Philippine situation said in telling also of "aggressive infantry skirmishes" and heavy artillery exchanges on Bataan Peninsula.

Enemy aircraft were active on all parts of the Philippine front defended by Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his men, the communique said, without disclosing whether the Japanese flyers were bombing, machine-gunning, reconnoitering, or all three.

No Material Damage Done.
The shelling of Corregidor Fortress in Manila Bay followed a two-day lull in such activity and again the Army reported that no material damage was done.

Word from Gen. MacArthur that "in some sections of the front enemy troops are entrenching their positions" was without amplification. Some observers saw in it, however, corroboration of statements by captured Japanese that the invaders particularly disliked the accurate shooting of the American gun crews.

Two Men Fatally Hurt In Virginia Traffic
Two men were fatally injured in Virginia auto accidents late last night. Benford Newman, 31, of Fairfax, Va., died in Georgetown hospital early today of injuries received in an accident on route 211 near Centerville.

A pedestrian identified by police as Leonard Crupper was instantly killed when hit by a passenger auto on route 1 about two miles south of Alexandria. A State trooper was reported slightly injured, while directing traffic after the accident.

Churchill May Delay Address Scheduled On Radio Today
By the Associated Press.
LONDON (Sunday), Feb. 15.—The possibility developed early today that Prime Minister Churchill would not carry out a radio broadcast to Britain and the United States which had been tentatively scheduled for 9 o'clock tonight (4 p.m. Eastern War Time).

Perhaps significantly, the British Broadcasting Corp., which is usually prompt to advise the public about important radio statements, made no mention in its late night news bulletin last night about a possible Churchill broadcast.

There was no information at the Prime Minister's residence, No. 10 Downing street, concerning Mr. Churchill's Sunday plans.

In New York the Columbia Broadcasting System, which, along with N. B. C. and Mutual, had arranged to relay the broadcast on all networks, said that it had been advised from London that the Churchill speech was now "very indefinite," and one authoritative source, according to C. B. S., said the address would "probably not" be made.

Child Labor to Harvest California Fruits
By the Associated Press.
LOS ANGELES, Feb. 14.—Women and children will have to harvest the bulk of the Nation's fruit crop this year, says James H. Crutchfield, member of the board of the American Fruit Growers.

Here to confer with California fruit growers, Mr. Crutchfield said there would be no fruit shortage. "School children probably will do most of the picking," he said. "A normal crop is in sight in nearly all sections of the country."



The King of France Marched Up the Hill—

'Prevailing Wage' as Practiced Adds Millions to Housing Cost

Workers on Bungalows Get Same Scale As Those at New War Building

By JAMES Y. NEWTON.

The \$100,000,000 public program to house war workers in Washington, now unfolding on several fronts, will cost the Government several millions more unless it changes its established policy of paying, even on the lowest-rent defense projects, the highest union wage scale for building trade workers.

Those engaged on Government housing projects of the cheap-type (structurally speaking) are paid the same hourly wage as the men who erect the monumental structures or permanent Federal office buildings in the Capital. That wage rate is as much as 50 per cent higher than paid by private builders on low-rent housing and considerably above rates paid for almost all of the city's most elaborate new apartment buildings privately financed.

That situation exists because the Labor Department, working under the Bacon-Davis "prevailing wage" law, has established, without any extensive investigation, the full union scale as prevailing wages here for Government residential building.

In doing that the department ignored wages paid on private projects, which still comprise a vast majority of residential buildings. It also overlooked the establishment by organized labor of "B" unions in many crafts whose members work on private jobs at a scale far below that required by the older or "A" unions, whose work largely is on Government or commercial construction.

Wage Rates Set Up.
The department has predetermined wage rates for all Government construction since the Bacon-Davis Act was amended in August, 1935. Briefly, the act provides for payment on Government work the wage found to be prevailing in a community for projects of a similar character to the contract work.

The department has further confused its position by setting wages for F. H. A.-sponsored rental housing developments far under the scale for public-financed projects. There are thousands of units around Washington in this privately owned, Government-insured developments, more in fact than in all the public jobs.

Here is a comparison of Labor Department determinations of hourly rates for the latest Alley Dwelling Authority project (Government financed) and one it made last autumn for an F. H. A. rental development, both in Southeast Washington. Each scale was held to be "prevailing," though the A. D. A. rate undoubtedly will be paid here for all defense housing:

Type of worker.	A. D. A. Rate.	F. H. A. Rate.
Bricklayers	1.75	1.25
Carpenters	1.62 1/2	1.00
Cement finishers	1.50	1.00
Electricians	1.80	1.00
Laborers	.85	.45
Iron workers	2.00	1.00
Painters	1.75 3/4	.75
Plasterers	2.00	1.12 1/2
Plumbers	1.75	1.12 1/2
Shovel operators	2.00	1.00
Roofers (composit'n)	1.55	1.00
Roofers (slate and tile)	1.75	1.25
Sheet metal workers	1.75	1.10
Steel fitters	1.75	1.12 1/2
Tile setters	1.50	1.12 1/2
Truck drivers	1.00	.50

The department explanation for the great difference in rates in that (Continued on Page A-5, Column 1.)

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80,000 to Register Here Tomorrow for Selective Service

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Only 8 Agencies Fail to Claim War Status

All 10 Departments, 28 Other Offices on Defense List

20,000 OF 323,000 members of C. C. C. now on full wartime basis. Page A-8
SALARY AND CLASSIFICATION protection promised transferred workers by Tydings. Page A-8

By J. A. FOX.
An amazing 20-month expansion of governmental activities which reportedly bear some relation to the war program was disclosed yesterday by a check of Civil Service Commission records. The 10 major departments and 28 independent establishments have reported to the commission, it was shown, that their functions now are wholly or in part of a defense nature.

Only eight agencies lay no claim to participation in the war effort. When the Nation started to rearm, in the middle of 1940, only three departments and eight independent agencies or bureaus were classed as defense organizations by the commission.

The check was made in the light of President Roosevelt's order for a general survey of personnel to determine the possibilities of diverting some of the non-defense man power to war operations, and halt the growth of the executive agencies which now are employing about 210,000 persons here as compared to 131,000 on June 1, 1940.

Seven Departments Listed.
When the commission began to classify agencies in defense and non-defense groups in July, 1940, in order to give the former preference in filling personnel needs, the defense category included the War, Navy and State Departments, and the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, Civil Aeronautics Authority, Maritime Commission, Panama Canal, Federal Bureau of Investigation (fingerprint unit), Immigration and Naturalization Service, Procurement, and the commission itself.

At present, seven departments are classified in their entirety, and three in part, as defense agencies. The former are State, War, Navy, Justice, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor. In the latter group are Treasury, Interior and Post Office. The last-named has only the inspection service and some personnel activities under the defense heading.

The only independent establishments which do not report defense functions are: American Battle Monuments Commission, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, Board of Tax Appeals, Government Printing Office, Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission, National Capital Park and Planning Commission and two railroad groups—National Mediation Board and Railroad Retirement Board. Their total employment is 9,592 of which 7,336 is in the printing office.

Interior Personnel Down.
The classification of an agency with the defense group has not always been accompanied by increased personnel. Interior, reporting a number of defense activities, has about 2,500 employees less than on June 1, 1940, although the tendency was upward in November—the last figures available—when the local force was shown at 4,643.

Agriculture is down about 1,200 from the 1940 figure, November employment standing at 12,682. Labor, which lost several hundred employees of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to Justice, showed 2,311 at work on November 30, as compared with 2,390 on June 1, 1940. All the other departments have grown.

Of the independent agencies, 22 increased personnel over this same period and seven showed a falling off. There were six agencies created as result of the arms program—hence no change—and the Mount Rushmore National Memorial Commission (Continued on Page A-8, Column 1.)

Roosevelt Urges Americans To Think in World Terms
By the Associated Press.
NEW YORK, Feb. 14.—Americans must think in terms of entire peoples and continents, not countries, President Roosevelt said tonight in a letter read over four major broadcasting systems and sent by shortwave around the world.

The message was read by Archibald MacLeish, chief of the Office of Facts and Figures, in the first of a radio series—"This Is War!"—donated by the four major networks and sent over approximately 700 American stations.

"The people of this country possess means of communicating with each other which enable them to face and to overcome the greatest difficulties in the way of understanding," the President wrote.

"I am especially gratified to note, for the first time, the four major networks and their hundreds of affiliated stations have given their time to the telling of facts to the people of the United States and those throughout the world—wherever people are allowed to listen to free words—to hear the truth."

It has been reported that functions of her division may be transferred to the Office of Defense Health and Welfare headed by Paul V. McNutt.

The House, in approving the \$100,000,000 fund for civilian defense, denied use of any part of it for dance training of children, the

Office of Civilian Defense should confine its operations to protective activities, and the permanent agencies of Government should take over functions in related fields, Mayor La Guardia of New York, retiring director, reported to President Roosevelt yesterday.

In the category of activities which might properly be transferred, the Mayor placed most of those now under jurisdiction of the Voluntary Participation Division, administered by Mrs. Roosevelt.